



News Release

USDA Forest Service

Cibola National Forest and Grasslands

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For Immediate Release

Magdalena Ranger District to begin fire restrictions on June 3

Albuquerque, NM. May 29, 2013 – Cibola National Forest and Grasslands Acting Forest Supervisor Joe Norrell announced that the Magdalena Ranger District's San Mateo, Datil and Magdalena Mountain units will begin Stage I fire restrictions on Monday, June 3. The Bear and Gallinas units are excluded from fire restrictions. "Due to the ongoing drought and high fire danger, I felt it was necessary to implement these restrictions to decrease the likelihood of human-caused wildfires and to protect public health and safety," Norrell said.

Although most of the district will be in fire restrictions, there are many activities that can still be enjoyed on the forest, such as picnicking, hiking and camping. However, please use extreme caution when you're on the forest, as conditions are very dry and wildfires can start from smoldering cigarettes or sparks from engines.

Stage I fire restrictions include:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove, except within a Forest Service developed recreation site, or improved site. **Exceptions:** The use of petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices are allowed providing such devices meet the fire underwriter's specifications for safety and has a turn-off valve.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
3. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device.

There are some exemptions to these restrictions and are noted on the restrictions order that is posted on the Cibola's web page: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/cibola> in the "Alerts and Notices" section.

Norrell said that forest employees on all the districts regularly analyze conditions to assess the dryness of the vegetation by monitoring temperatures, humidity and precipitation. This information is used to determine whether fire restrictions are either enacted or elevated.

Current fire restrictions for the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands are:

- **Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands:** No restrictions.

- **Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands:** Will begin Stage I fire restrictions on June 16.
- **Magdalena Ranger District:** Will begin Stage I fire restrictions for the San Mateo, Datil and Magdalena Mountain units on June 3. The Bear and Gallinas units will not be in restrictions.
- **Mountainair Ranger District:** In Stage II Fire Restrictions; going into Stage III restrictions on June 10.
- **Mt. Taylor Ranger District:** In Stage I Fire Restrictions; going into Stage II restrictions on June 10. The district's personal woodcutting permit season is delayed.
- **Sandia Ranger District:** In Stage II Fire Restrictions; going into Stage III restrictions on June 10.

Useful fire websites:

- Southwest Coordination Center: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>
- New Mexico Fire Information: <http://nmfireinfo.com/>
- National Interagency Fire Center: www.nifc.gov
- FireWise: www.firewise.org
- Fire Restrictions across the US: <http://firerestrictions.us/>

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